

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 SP-02
SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-09
EUR-12 IO-13 NASA-02 NEA-10 OIC-02 PA-02 PRS-01
NRC-07 /174 W

-----141139Z 068741 /10

R 141034Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2065

ERDA HDQTRS WASHDC

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEHRAN 3260

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TECH, IR

SUBJ: REACTION OF SHIRAZ CONFERENCE ON TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR
TECHNOLOGY TO USG NUCLEAR POLICY STATEMENT

REF: TEHRAN 3219

1. PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 5 OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY TRANSMITS HERewith THE
TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY DELEGATES AT THE SHIRAZ CONFERENCE ON
THE TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY WHICH ADDRESSES ITSELF TO PRESIDEN
T
CARTER'S APRIL 7 STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY. TEXT WAS CARRIED
IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE KAYHAN OF APRIL 14. WHEN EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED
COPY OF STATEMENT FROM CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT, WE WILL COMPARE WITH
KAYHAN VERSION. ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS WILL BE REPORTED.

2. BEGIN TEXT - THE ESSENTIAL POINT IS THAT MOST COUNTRIES LOOK UPON
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NUCLEAR POWER AS THE ONLY ROUTE TO ENERGY INDEPENDENCE. FOR THOSE
COUNTRIES WHICH DO NOT HAVE LARGE RESOURCES OF URANIUM, THIS INDE-
PENDENCE WILL COME ONLY WITH THE BREEDER REACTOR. THE REPROCESSING
OF FUEL AND RECYCLING OF ISOTOPES ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION
OF ANY BREEDER, NO MATTER WHAT THE TYPE. HENCE ANY SUGGESTION
THAT REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING ARE UNACCEPTABLE STRIKES AT THE
VERY ROOT OF THIS MOTIVATION FOR ADOPTING NUCLEAR POWER, AND

NATURALLY IS VIEWED WITH ALARM.

3. ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CARTER HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN AFFORD TO DEFER THE BREEDER, MANY OTHER COUNTRIES CANNOT AFFORD SUCH A COURSE. THEY VIEW THE BREEDER AS AN IMMINENT REALITY, AND THIS VIEW IS SUPPORTED BY THE RAPID PROGRESS IN LMFBR DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPE. THEY WANT TO MAKE FIRM PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR FUTURE NOW. THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A NUCLEAR POWER CAPABILITY IS FAR TOO LARGE A COMMITMENT TO BE MADE IF ITS ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE IS IN DOUBT.

4. IN THE INTERIM UNTIL INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE BREEDER, MOST COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO TAKE THE VIEW THAT URANIUM OFFERS NO MORE SECURITY THAN OIL AS AN IMPARTIAL FUEL SUPPLY. INDEED, SO LONG AS URANIUM ENRICHMENT REMAINS A NEAR-MONOPOLY OF THE UNITED STATES, IT MIGHT BE ARGUED THAT THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM IS LESS SECURE THAN THE SUPPLY OF OIL. IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE, THE IMPLICATION OF NEW RESTRICTIONS ON THE REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGIES IS AGAIN CAUSE FOR ALARM.

5. AN IMPLICATION THAT THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH ITS ENRICHMENT, REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING POLICIES, WILL ATTEMPT TO AFFECT THE COURSE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE TECHNOLOGIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD IS ANOTHER WORRY. THE REQUIRED PACE OF IMPLEMENTATION WILL DEPEND UPON THE RATE OF GROWTH OF ENERGY NEEDS IN THE VARIOUS COUNTRIES UPON THE WORLD RESOURCES OF URANIUM AND UPON THE POLICIES TAKEN BY THOSE NATIONS WHICH ARE IN A POSITION TO EXPORT URANIUM. MOST OF THE IMPORTING NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN COURSES OF NUCLEAR IMPLEMENTATION.

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TION, PARTICULARLY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPROCESSING AND RECYCLING--WITHOUT WHICH THEIR URANIUM FEED REQUIREMENTS INCREASE BY 45 PERCENT.

6. THE CARTER STATEMENT IS REGARDED BY SOME AS AN IMPLICATION OF UNILATERAL ABROGATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. DR. SIGVARD EKLUND, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY, HAS CITED ARTICLE FOUR OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. THIS PERCEPTION, ON THE ONE HAND, WEAKENS THE CONFIDENCE OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE U.S. PROMISES OF NUCLEAR FUEL SUPPLY, AND ON THE OTHER HAND MAY WEAKEN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS AND MAY EVEN CAUSE SOME NPT SIGNATORIES TO RECONSIDER. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY THAT HAS BEEN MENTIONED IS THE INDEPENDENT DEVELOPMENT OF ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING CAPABILITIES BY OTHER NATIONS.

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7. MANY FEEL THAT THE RESTRICTION OF REPROCESSING IS NOT AN EFFECTIVE DETERRENT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION. THIS LEADS TO TWO CONCERNS: THAT RESTRICTION OF REPROCESSING IS FAR TOO HIGH A PRICE TO PAY FOR A marginally effective SAFEGUARD; AND THAT RELIANCE ON THAT RESTRICTION WILL BLUNT THE EFFORT TOWARD MORE EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PROLIFERATION CONTROL.

8. THE EMPHASIS IN THE CARTER STATEMENT ON EXPLORING OTHER BREEDER TYPES AND OTHER FUEL CYCLES TENDS TO DESTROY THE CREDIBILITY OF THE TECHNICAL BASIS FOR THE STATEMENT. THERE ARE NO FUEL CYCLES WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH BREEDING AND WHICH PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGICAL BARRIER TO PROLIFERATION. THE SO-CALLED TAYLOR FUEL CYCLE MAY HAVE ADVANTAGES OF THIS KIND, BUT ONLY IF REPROCESSING OF FUEL IS RESTRICTED TO LOCATIONS CONSIDERED "SAFE" AND THE RESULTING PLUTONIUM IS BURNED OR OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF ON THAT SITE OR A SIMILARLY "SAFE" ONE.

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9. MANY NATIONS FEEL THAT REPROCESSING OF SPENT FUEL IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE ROUTE TO SAFE ULTIMATE DISPOSAL OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES. SOME ARE LEGALLY COMMITTED TO THAT ROUTE.

10. REGARDLESS OF ANY FURTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS BY THE UNITED STATES TO IMPLEMENT THE POINTS OF THE CARTER STATMENT, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOMESTIC POINTS WILL BE REGARDED AS A VICTORY FOR THE GROUPS WHICH OPPOSE NUCLEAR POWER. THIS WILL GIVE THEM GREATER POWER IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE THEY HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THE CAPABILITY OF SERIOUSLY IMPEDING NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS. END TEXT.

MIKLOS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ENRG, TECH, IR, US
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Type: TE
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